

Water Quality Protection Division



Mississippi Canyon 252 Oil Spill, Gulf of Mexico Region 6 Update

Subject: **Water Quality Division Update # 51**
 Mississippi Canyon 252 Oil Spill, Gulf of Mexico

Date: July 13, 2010

Reporting Period: July 12, 2010 1300 – July 13, 2010 1300

HIGHLIGHTS

- R6 continues to coordinate with OW, OSWER, OGC and R4 on finalizing a letter to Col. Lee (New Orleans Corps District) advising the Corps to temporarily discontinue using the EPA-designated ocean dumping site for the disposal of dredged material from the SW Pass of the Mississippi River, due to the potential for oil contamination.
- R6 is coordinating with R4 to consolidate R4, R6, and HQ comments on BP's Liquid Waste and Materials Management Plan. The goal is to provide comprehensive comments to BP by close of business Wednesday, July 14, 2010.

CONTINUING ISSUES

Forecast

SW winds are forecast to continue at 10-13 knots through Tuesday, then become W at less than 10 knots. Remote sensing imagery and overflights have indicated only scattered areas of potential oil remaining in northern Chandeleur and Mississippi Sound; any remaining oil in this region will be moved eastward, continuing to threaten the coastlines of MS, AL and the Florida Panhandle east to Pensacola. Imagery and overflights also indicate little oil remaining offshore west of the Delta, however, with prevailing southwesterly winds, shorelines from Atchafalaya Bay to Southwest pass continue to be threatened by scattered tarball impacts.

- For maps concerning shoreline impact assessments, oil slick forecasts, and sampling locations go to <http://www.deepwaterhorizonresponse.com/go/doctype/2931/53979/>

Monitoring and Assessment

- Continuing to coordinate with HQ, Region 4, and the REOC Environmental Unit regarding planning activities and daily review of monitoring data.

Drinking Water

- Region 6 Drinking Water staff provided comments on questions in the Q&A document for Administrator Jackson's upcoming Senate Testimony.
- Drinking water intakes, public drinking water wells, and domestic wells have not been impacted by the oil sheen to date.
- Region 6 continues to coordinate closely with the LDHH on all drinking water issues.

NPDES

- Participating in discussions with OW and R4 on options for modification of existing oil and gas general permits in the Gulf of Mexico.

Coastal Programs

Louisiana Large-Scale Coastal Barrier Plan:

- The Corps has requested additional information from the State prior to sending the full permit application package out for interagency review. Staff continue to participate on the interagency project review team.

Corps Emergency Authorizations for Coastal Protection Features:

- Staff continue to coordinate with OW and with the New Orleans Corps District on emergency permit requests for coastal oil containment proposals.

Corps Navigation Maintenance Dredging:

- Staff continue to work with the Corps on an interim dredged material sampling plan, as well as on alternate dredged material disposal options.
- Ongoing coordination between Region 6, Region 4, and OW regarding a discussion paper providing guidance on Gulf of Mexico dredged material management from major navigation channels.

Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection and Restoration Act (CWPPRA)

- It is anticipated that there may be re-oiling of several shorelines in the vicinity of CWPPRA projects.